



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS ANNOUNCES NEW FISHERY PROGRAM POLICY

Fish and Wildlife Service Director Robert Jantzen today announced a new fishery policy that defines the Service's national fishery resource conservation responsibilities in the years ahead.

"We have recognized the need for some time to revise and refocus our national fishery effort," Director Jantzen said. "In a time of increased concern over federal budgets, it is especially important that our funding accomplish the maximum good for fishery resources at the national level."

The new policy, detailed in the document Statement of Responsibilities and Role, will guide Service efforts in fulfilling four major responsibilities:

- o To facilitate restoration of depleted, nationally significant fishery resources.
- o To seek and provide for mitigation of fishery resource impairment due to federal water-related development.
- o To assist with management of fishery resources on federal (primarily Service) and Indian lands.
- o To maintain a federal leadership role in scientifically-based management of national fishery resources.

The fishery statement, summarized in the May 17, 1985, Federal Register, outlines the federal government's historical involvement in fishery conservation and details how specific fish culture facilities have been created in each era to address conservation needs of the day. It also points to the greatly increased technical and professional capability for fishery conservation programs at the State level and among Indian tribes during recent decades. The statement also outlines the general implementation process the Fish and Wildlife Service will follow in carrying out its revised responsibilities.

Copies of the Statement of Responsibilities and Role are available in limited quantity from the Publications Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.